

At page 6, the paragraph encompassing lines 13-16 is replaced with the following:

The *Actinosynnema pretiosum* strain of the present invention, herein PF4-4, was deposited under the provisions of the Budapest Treaty with the American Type Culture Collection, 10801 University Blvd., Manassas, Virginia 20110-2209, on December 11, 2001, and has been accorded Accession No. ATCC PTA-3921.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please enter the following amended claims:

a3 1. (Amended) A bacterium having the biological characteristics of the bacterium having ATCC accession number PTA-3921.

Please add the following new claims:

5. *Actinosynnema pretiosum* strain PF4-4 having ATCC accession number PTA-3921.
a4 6. An enhanced *Actinosynnema pretiosum* strain that produces an ansamitocin in an amount of between about 1.2-fold and about 10-fold more than the amount produced by a parental strain from which the enhanced strain was derived.

7. ~~The enhanced *Actinosynnema pretiosum* strain according to claim 6, wherein the enhanced strain produces an ansamitocin in an amount of between 1.2-fold and 10-fold more than the amount produced by a parental strain from which the enhanced strain was derived.~~

8. ~~The enhanced *Actinosynnema pretiosum* strain according to claim 6, wherein the enhanced strain produces an ansamitocin in an amount of between 1.8-fold and 10-fold more than the amount produced by a parental strain from which the enhanced strain was derived.~~